

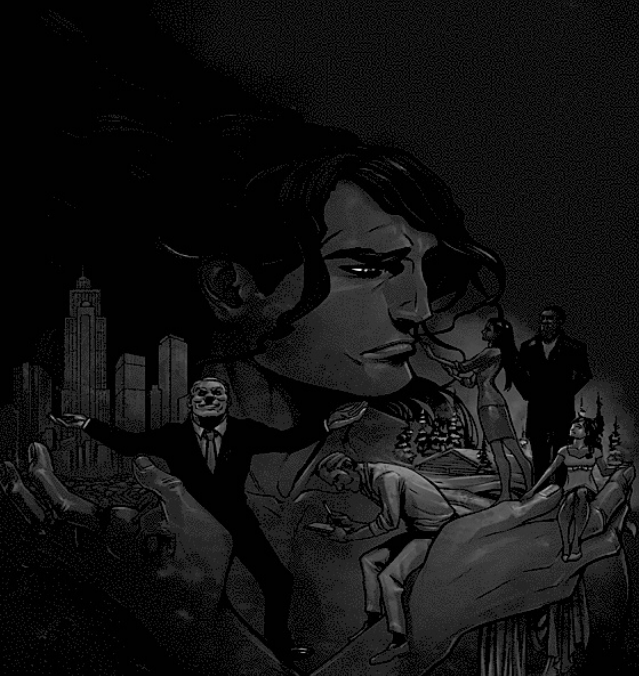
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RICE
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ANNE RICE'S SERVANT OF THE BONES



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Azriel, the Servant of the Bones, saved the scholar Jonathan in his remote cabin one wintry night. He then tells him a tale of ancient Babylon, gods, kings, and secret rites. Able to see the great god of Babylon, Marduk, Azriel is sentenced to a terrible fate by his elders. But even he doesn't know the horror that awaits him in a secret chamber, or what the centuries of serving one master after another will turn him into...until he ends up in modern day New York City.



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"THERE CAME THE
DECEPTIVE SONG
OF THE SEA.

"WATER THAT SEEMS
TO BE TALKING TO
YOU WHEN IT IS
SAYING NOTHING.

"WATER POUNDING
THE BEACH AS IF TO
SAY: I COMING.

"BUT THERE
IS NO I."

IF I COULD
DIE NOW, I
WOULD.

I HAVE NO
POWER TO CURE,
NOT A DISEASE
THIS FAR
ADVANCED.

I KNOW. YOU
WOULD HAVE
ALREADY, IF
YOU COULD.

WHAT CAN
I DO?

YOU
SPOKE
ABOUT
ESTHER.

YES. WHY DO YOU
THINK GREGORY
KILLED HER?

YOU SAID SHE MET NATHAN
WHEN SHE BOUGHT THIS
DIAMOND NECKLACE.

NOTHING.
I WANT THE
DRUGS TO WEAR
OFF. I WANT TO
DIE ON MY
OWN.

"I WAS
SHAKEN TO THE
BONE AT THE
SIGHT OF HER
SUFFERING,
BUT THEN IT
SEEMED TO
MELT."

SHE COULD SEE
HIS RESEMBLANCE
TO GREGORY. WHEN
SHE MENTIONED IT,
HE CONFESSED THAT
NATHAN WAS HIS
IDENTICAL TWIN.

AH,
IDENTICAL.

THE DAY SHE
DIED, I'M SURE
SHE TOOK THE
NECKLACE BACK TO
NATHAN. SHE TOLD
ME SHE HAD TO
DROP IT OFF.

"WHEN SHE MET NATHAN, ESTHER SAID IT WAS LIKE LOOKING AT THE MAN GREGORY COULD HAVE BEEN, ALL FILLED UP WITH KINDNESS AND GENTLENESS."

"SHE LIKED HIM VERY MUCH."



"ESTHER WANTED GREGORY TO MEET HIS BROTHER, BUT HE WAS FRANTIC THAT SHE TOLD NO ONE ABOUT HIS CONNECTION TO THE HASIDIM."

"HE TOLD HER IT WAS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH AND TRIED TO FRIGHTEN HER."

"HE WAS FURIOUS. ESTHER WAS CONFUSED."



"I THOUGHT GREGORY WOULD GO OUT OF HIS MIND. HE SHOUTED, 'THESE PEOPLE HURT ME, I MADE MY OWN CHURCH, MY OWN TRIBE. I AM MY MESSIAH!'"

"I TOLD HIM WE'RE NOT ON TV OR IN A PULPIT TO SIT AND RELAX."



"ESTHER DEMANDED TO KNOW WHY GREGORY HAD BEEN SO KIND TO NATHAN AND CHECKED HIM IN TO THE HOSPITAL UNDER GREGORY'S NAME, IN A PRIVATE SUITE."

"I SWEAR TO YOU, I THOUGHT GREGORY WOULD GO CRAZY. AND I REALIZED THIS WAS MORE COMPLEX THAN PUBLICITY. THE HASIDIM CONNECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR GREGORY AND HIS CULT STATUS."



"SO I BEGAN TO ASK MY OWN QUESTIONS. WHY HAD NATHAN BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AT ALL?"

"ESTHER SAID GREGORY HAD SUGGESTED IT, BECAUSE THEY WERE BOTH AT RISK FOR SOME INHERITED DISEASE."

"HE HAD SPIRITED NATHAN AWAY AND HAD ALL THE TESTS DONE UNDER HIS OWN NAME."

"HE DIDN'T HAVE THE DISEASE. ESTHER AGREED SHE WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE BUT..."



"...SHE WOULD CONTINUE TO SEE NATHAN FROM TIME TO TIME."

"GREGORY BEGAN TO CRY WITH RELIEF HE WENT INTO HOW HIS PEOPLE CAST HIM OUT, HOW THE TEMPLE WAS EVERYTHING TO HIM, HIS MEANING, HIS LIFE."

"WE ROLLED OUR EYES. HE COULD CRY ON CUB. IT WAS A JOKE BETWEEN ESTHER AND ME."

"WE KNEW HE HAD COMPILED THE TEACHINGS OF THE TEMPLE FROM A COMPUTER PROGRAM OF OTHER CULTS."



"I SEE A LARGE DESIGN HERE."





TWO DAYS LATER AND GREGORY AND ESTHER WERE STILL NOT SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER.

"THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE SOUNDED EXACTLY LIKE GREGORY."

HE WOKE ME IN ONE OF HIS RAGES. HE INSISTED I TALK TO SOMEONE.

"HE SPOKE IN YIDDISH. HE WAS KIND. HE ASKED ME TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO ESTHER, THAT THE FAMILIES COULD NOT MEET."

TELL ESTHER IT CAN'T BE, OUR GRANDFATHER DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE AND HE IS THE REBBE. GIVE HER MY LOVE AND I WILL SEE HER WHEN SHE COMES TO VISIT.

YOU HAVE MY LOVE, TOO, BROTHER IN LAW. I TOO LOST MY PARENTS IN THE CAMPS. I WISH YOU WELL.

"HE SAID WE WERE IN HIS PRAYERS AND IF WE EVER NEEDED HIM, IF GREGORY WAS EVER ILL OR AFRAID, WE SHOULD CALL."

"I REMEMBER THINKING ABOUT THAT HOSPITAL VISIT. GREGORY HAD NEVER BEEN SICK A DAY IN HIS LIFE. HE HAD A PRIVATE DOCTOR."

"THEN GREGORY GRABBED THE PHONE AND WALKED AWAY."

HOW LONG AGO WAS THIS?

ABOUT A MONTH. I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THIS UNTIL NOW.

I KNEW IN MY HEART HE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTHER'S DEATH. HE WAS TOO PREPARED FOR IT.

BUT, DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE HE WOULD KILL HIS OWN DAUGHTER OVER ALL THIS?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? IF HE WOULD KILL ESTHER, HE MIGHT KILL NATHAN, TOO.

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE WHAT KIND?

HIS PLAN IS BIG. DO YOU KNOW WHY THERE ARE LABORATORIES IN THE TEMPLE OF THE MIND?

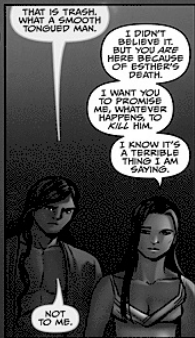
YES, I DO. I CAN SEE IT NOW. HAVE YOU EVER SPOKEN TO THE REBBE?

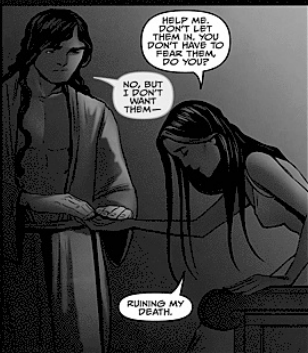
NO, I KNOW THAT SORT OF OLD MAN. I HAVE GREAT REVERENCE FOR THOSE PEOPLE.

THAT OLD MAN ALSO ACCUSED GREGORY OF MURDERING ESTHER. AND HE WANTED TO KNOW THE SAME THING YOU DO. WHY?

MEN IN ORANGE SUITS THAT COVER THEIR WHOLE BODIES...

MY GOD, IS THERE A VIRUS AT THE HEART OF THIS? WHAT DID HE DO TO NATHAN IN THE HOSPITAL?









YOU MUST
HAVE REALLY
LOVED HER.

SHE WAS
MY QUEEN.

"HER LIGHT BLAZED
FOR AN INSTANT, LIKE
LIGHTNING LASHING
THE SOUTHERN SKY,
EXPLODING BEHIND
THE CLOUDS.

"BUT IT WAS
ONLY HER
PASSING.

"THE GARDEN HELD
NOTHING BUT A
BED OF EGYPTIAN
FLOWERS AND HER
EMPTY FLESH.

"I WENT HIGH. I FLEW
SO HIGH THAT THE
JOYOUS SPIRITS WERE
THERE. IT WAS AS IF
THEY LOOKED AT ME
WITH GREAT INTEREST.

"I KNEW WHAT I HAD
TO DO FIRST. I HAD
TO FIND NATHAN."

*I WAS FIERCELY WORRIED FOR NATHAN.

*I NEEDED TO PROWL INVISIBLY ALL THROUGH THE TEMPLE OF THE MIND.

*ALL I SAW ALARMED AND REPELLED ME.

*THERE WAS A GREAT AIR OF URGENCY AND COMMOTION.

*MAPS FILLED WITH PINPOINTS OF LIGHT ALL OVER THE WORLD.

*AS I SUSPECTED, THERE WAS MUCH CHEMICAL RESEARCH BEING DONE. THERE WERE NUMEROUS RESTRICTED AREAS, PEOPLE WORKING IN THOSE STRANGE ORANGE, RUBBERY SUITS.

*I SUSPECTED THE CHEMICALS WERE FILOVIRUSES.

*THE ENTIRE TEMPLE STANK OF MURDER.

SANITIZE

*OTHER PARTS WERE CLEARLY COMMUNICATION CENTERS.

*THE IMAGE OVER THE ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL WAS A GREAT BRAIN. IT WAS STRANGELY UNINSPIRING.

*IN AN ANTISEPTIC LABORATORY MY BONES LAY.

*I HAD MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, BUT I KNEW ONE THING: THEY WERE PREPARING FOR THE LAST DAYS.

*EXHAUSTED, I FOUND A LAKE IN CENTRAL PARK. I DRANK. I TOLD MY BODY IT MUST ANSWER NO ONE'S CALL BUT MY OWN.

*I SLEPT.

"WHEN I AWOKED I WAS WHOLE, INTACT. I HAD SURVIVED THE HOURS OF SLEEP OUTSIDE OF THE BONES.

"IT WAS BAM BY THE CITY'S CLOCK. I DANCED FOR JOY ON THE GRASS.

"THEN I DISSOLVED.

"AT THE HOUSE OF THE REBBE I APPEARED."

I NEED TO SEE NATHAN. IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

"WHEN THE REBBE SAW ME HE TRIED TO EXORCISE ME FROM THE HOUSE. I STOOD FIRM."

I MUST SPEAK TO NATHAN. GREGORY IS A DANGEROUS MAN. I WON'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I FIND HIM.

I WILL SPEAK TO HIM WITH LOVE. NATHAN WALKS WITH GOD, AND PERHAPS IF I SAVE HIM, SO SHALL I.

"THEY WANTED ME TO STAND IN THE CIRCLE, BUT I REFUSED."

NO, I AM HERE TO LOVE, TO AVERT HARM. I WILL DO NO EVIL. I WILL NOT BE CONFINED HERE BY YOU AND YOUR MAGIC.

THE LOVE OF NATHAN IS WHAT CALLS ME NOW.

RACHEL BELKIN IS DEAD. SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE.

THE NEWS SAID YOU TOOK HER LIFE!

THAT'S A LIE. ESTHER MET NATHAN IN THE DIAMOND DISTRICT. I BELIEVE GREGORY HAD HER MURDERED BECAUSE SHE KNEW OF HIS FAMILY AND HIS TWIN. NATHAN IS IN DANGER.

"THEY STOOD
MOTIONLESS
FOR A MOMENT.

"THEN THEY HURLED
QUESTIONS AT ME.
IT WAS A TEST."

"NAME THE
PROPHETS!"

"WHAT
WERE THE
MITZVOT?"

"BABYLON?"

"THE QUESTIONS WENT ON
AND ON. I ANSWERED THEM
ALL, IN GREEK, IN ARAMAIC, IN
YIDDISH. I GREW IMPATIENT."

"I HAVE TO
STOP GREGORY.
WHILE WE CARRY ON
LIKE THIS, NATHAN IS
IN DANGER. HELP ME
SAVE HIM, IN THE
NAME OF GOD."

"NATHAN IS GONE FAR
AWAY. HE IS SAFE IN
THE LORD'S CITY."

"HOW DO
YOU KNOW
HE'S SAFE?"

"WHAT MADE
NATHAN GO
TO ISRAEL?"

"HIS
GRIEF FOR
ESTHER AND
HIS YEARLY
TRIP."

"CAN YOU
REACH
HIM?"

"HE'S
SAFE."

"I AM NOT
SO SURE. DID ANY
OF YOU CALL
UPON ME? DID
NATHAN?"

"NATHAN WOULD
NEVER DO SUCH
AN UNHOLY THING."

"I WATCHED THEM
AS THEY TRIED TO
EXORCISE ME."

"I DID NOT
ALLOW ANGER,
ONLY LOVE
FOR THEM. AND
I REMEMBERED
ZURVAN'S
TEACHINGS."

"THEY KEPT UP THEIR
EXORCISM AND I
SOUGHT FOR THE
WORDS TO CALM THEM."

"I SANG A SONG OF
HOLINESS AND PEACE."

"LEARNING LOVE
FROM RACHEL AND
ESTHER, I CAME IN
LOVE TO LOVE NATHAN
AND LOVE GOD."

"HE WAS A DEMON
WHO WOULD BE AN
ANGEL. IS SUCH A
THING POSSIBLE?"

"THE REBBE
CALLED ISRAEL.
THE NEWS WAS
NOT GOOD."

"HE DIDN'T
TELL YOU HE
WAS COMING?
NATHAN IS NOT
THERE?"

"THE OLD
MEN WERE
DISTRESSED.
SO WAS I."



THEY WERE NEVER CONTACTED ABOUT HIS VISIT.



GET SARAH, NATHAN'S WIFE. BUT DON'T TELL HER HE'S NOT THERE.



SARAH, HAVE YOU HEARD FROM NATHAN SINCE HE LEFT?

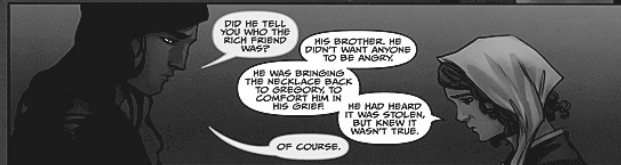
NO, REBBE.

YOU WENT WITH HIM TO THE PLANE?

NO.

DID NATHAN TELL YOU HE WAS GOING TO ISRAEL?

YES, A CAR CAME FOR HIM, FROM A RICH FRIEND.



DID HE TELL YOU WHO THE RICH FRIEND WAS?

HIS BROTHER. HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO BE ANGRY.

HE WAS BRINGING THE NECKLACE BACK TO GREGORY, TO COMFORT HIM IN HIS GRIEF.

HE HAD HEARD IT WAS STOLEN, BUT KNEW IT WASN'T TRUE.

OF COURSE.



I'M SO SORRY, BUT HE LOVED HIS BROTHER AND WAS SO STRICKEN WITH GRIEF FOR THE GIRL.

I SEE, SARAH. DON'T THINK ANY MORE ABOUT IT.

"I FELT SO SORRY FOR HER. SHE KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG BUT SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT OR HOW BAD IT REALLY WAS."



IT IS, AS I THOUGHT. GREGORY USED THE NECKLACE TO LURE NATHAN TO HIM.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE HE IS RETURNED UNHARMED.

WILL YOU GIVE YOUR BLESSING, ALL OF YOU? I WON'T LINGER BEGGING FOR IT. BUT IF YOU GIVE IT I WILL RECEIVE IT WITH LOVE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.



"WITH A NOD FROM THEIR REBBE THEY GAVE ME THEIR BLESSING. I LOVED THEM AND SAW THEM FOR WHAT THEY WERE AND FEARED FOR NATHAN ALL THE MORE."

WHAT IS GREGORY DOING?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT NATHAN IS AN IDENTICAL TWIN, AND GREGORY WOULD BE THE MESSIAH. HE WOULD CHANGE THE WHOLE WORLD.

IF I NEED YOU, FOR NATHAN'S SAKE, FOR THE SAKE OF ALL GOD'S CREATURES, WILL YOU COME?

YES.

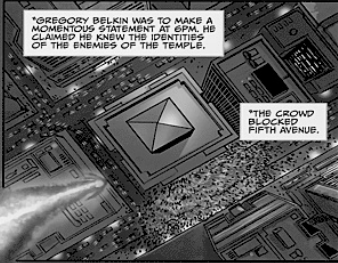


"I LEFT THEM STARING SOLEMNLY AT THE PLACE WHERE I'D STOOD."

"I SET MY DESTINATION TO THE PLACE WHERE GREGORY WAS, THE TEMPLE."

"WHATEVER WAS IN STORE FOR NATHAN PROBABLY HAD NOT HAPPENED YET."

"BUT THEN THE PEOPLE IN TEMPLE HAD BEEN WORKING FULL SPEED ON THE LAST DAYS."



*GREGORY BELKIN WAS TO MAKE A MOMENTOUS STATEMENT AT 6PM. HE CLAIMED HE KNEW THE IDENTITIES OF THE ENEMIES OF THE TEMPLE.

*THE CROWD BLOCKED FIFTH AVENUE.



*GREGORY SUPPOSEDLY PLANNED TO TRY AND PREVENT MORE DESTRUCTION.

I WENT INTO THE BUILDING TO FIND HIM.



NOTHING WILL HAPPEN UNTIL 2 HOURS AFTER I AM PRONOUNCED DEAD...

*THE WORDS GALVANIZED ME.



*THE ROOM ITSELF WAS SOUNDPROOF.

*THE WALLS DIDN'T HAVE BARS, THE MONITORS ONLY REVEALED THE OUTSIDE.



*ALL THE MEN LOOKED LIKE KILLERS.

*THEY REEKED OF RESENTMENT, SUSPICION, AND DESPERATION THAT I HAD INTERRUPTED THEM.



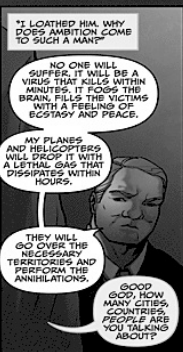
BE CALM. THIS WAS INEVITABLE AND IT WILL NOT STOP US. THIS IS AN ANGEL FROM GOD TO HELP US.

IS THAT SO?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH YOUR BROTHER?

IF YOU DON'T TELL ME THE TRUTH I'LL TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB. WHAT IS THIS ABOUT YOUR OFFICIAL DEATH?

TALK, OR I WILL DESTROY.





YOU THINK THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO SHAKE YOUR HAND FOR THIS?

WELL, WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO KILL HIM.

HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW IT'S A HOAX?

ENOUGH KEY PEOPLE. BUT LISTEN TO ME! IMAGINE THE RELIEF WHEN PEOPLE REALIZE WHAT WE'VE DONE!



WE'RE ALL SICK OF WATCHING THE THIRD WORLD STRUGGLE.

IT WILL BE A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY.



THE WEST HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN ITS OWN CONSCIENCE AND BENEVOLENCE. THIS COUNTRY WILL BE THE NEW ARK.

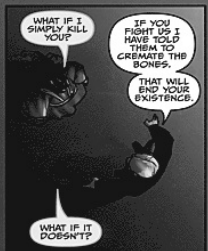
DURING THESE LAST DAYS, PEOPLE WILL BE IN A PANIC, AFRAID OF THE PLAGUE OF EXTERMINATION.

YOU THINK THEY WILL THANK YOU?

YES, AND I WILL COME BACK FROM THE DEAD, TELL THEM MY VISION OF THE NEW WORLD.

THAT GOD CHOSE THE TEMPLE.

WE HAVE IT ALL PLANNED.



WHAT IF I SIMPLY KILL YOU?

IF YOU FIGHT US I HAVE TOLD THEM TO CREMATE THE BONES.

THAT WILL END YOUR EXISTENCE.

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T?



WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOUR ABILITIES ARE LIMITED.

YOU THINK I AM JUST GOING TO LET YOU DO THIS. YOU COUNT YOURSELF AMONG THE WRONG LEADERS.

CYRUS BROUGHT RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, ALEXANDER BROUGHT HELLENISM, MARSHED ASIAN TO GREEK.

YOU TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH ATILLA THE HUN, WITH TAMERLANE, WHO BUILT WALLS OUT OF BODIES. TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH EBOLA, WITH THE BLACK DEATH, WITH AIDS. YOU ARE DESTRUCTION.

NATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ANNIHILATED TO MAKE WAY FOR OTHER NATIONS. TRY TO COMPREHEND THE BEAUTY OF IT.

DON'T YOU SEE THIS TAKES BRILLIANCE AND COURAGE? I HAVE IT, I HAVE THE VISION!

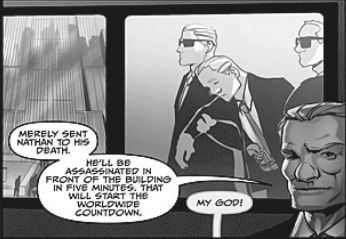
YOU'LL SEE WHEN IT'S BEGUN.

IT ISN'T GOING TO BEGIN!



"TOO LATE, I REALIZED
HE HAD PRESSED THE
WHITE STAR OF DAVID
ON THE MAP. HE LOOKED
AT IT LOVINGLY."

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?!



MERELY SENT
NATHAN TO HIS
DEATH.

HE'LL BE
ASSASSINATED IN
FRONT OF THE BUILDING
IN FIVE MINUTES. THAT
WILL START THE
WORLDWIDE
COUNTDOWN.

MY GOD!



"IN DESPERATION
I CALLED THE
IRON TO ME."



AAAGH!



YOU
FOOL!



WELL, YOU
WANTED TO BE
THE MESSIAH.
DIDN'T YOU?

"I DISSOLVED,
MOVING MYSELF
TO THE SPOT OUTSIDE.

"BUT EVEN AS I DID, I
HEARD THE RIFLE SHOTS."

"I STARED DOWN
AT NATHAN'S BODY.

"THE CROWD HAD
PANICKED, I COULD
HEAR SIRENS.

"THEN...

"...THE WORLD
AROUND ME
CHANGED.

"WITH MY OWN
EYES I SAW
THE GLEAMING,
BEAUTIFUL,
STAIRWAY TO
HEAVEN.

"AT THE TOP, RACHEL
AND ESTHER
EMBRACED NATHAN.
HE WAS HASID AGAIN.

"I SAW THEM ALL.
MY FATHER,
ZURVAN, SAMUEL,
AND OTHERS.

"RACHEL STEPPED
FORWARD. SHE TOLD
ME: 'GO BACK. TAKE
NATHAN'S BODY AND
FIGHT GREGORY.
PLEASE.'

"SHE BEGGED ME."

CAN'T
WE BOTH
COME NOW?
PLEASE!

"BUT I KNEW THE
WORLD NEEDED
ME. I HAD TO
GO BACK.

"I SAW THEM ALL GATHERED,
EVEN MY FATHER. THEY HAD
BECOME PURE ILLUMINATION."

I LOVE
YOU, MY
SON.

"I LOOKED
AT THE LIGHT
AND LET IT
FILL ME.

"I LET THEIR
UNDERSTANDING
AND PEACE FILL ME.
I UNDERSTOOD.

"I FELT MYSELF
SUCKED DOWN INTO
DARKNESS AND PAIN."



"I LURCHED OFF THE STRETCHER. I SAW THE CAMERA'S AND BECKONED THE REPORTERS."

"I HEARD MY OWN VOICE TINGED WITH NATHAN'S SPEAK."

SURROUND THIS BUILDING. SEARCH IT. AN IMPOSTOR HAS TAKEN MY PLACE.

THIS BUILDING IS LOADED WITH FATAL VIRUSES. THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OTHER TEMPLES ARE READY TO DISCHARGE THEM.

STOP THEM. YOU MUST REACH THE 30TH FLOOR. YOU MUST REACH THE ROOM WITH THE IMPOSTOR NAILED TO THE WALL.

HURRY! I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO ENTER. TAKE GUNS WITH YOU!

"I WAS GROWING WEAK."



THE TEMPLE OF THE MIND MUST BE STOPPED IN EVERY COUNTRY. EVERY BUILDING CONTAINS POISON GAS AND GUNS.

BEWARE THEIR LIES. LOOK WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO ME.

MINDERS, YOUR LEADER HAS BEEN SHOT AND TRICKED. DESTROY THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DECEIVED YOU!

ALERT THEM, WORLDWIDE, THE PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH DEADLY DISEASES, THERE IS ENOUGH POISON IN THIS BUILDING TO KILL A CITY, EVEN THIS ONE!



"I'M GREGORY BELKIN! I BLEED LIKE CHRIST! THAT MAN IS AN IMPOSTOR!"

"I FALTERED. I WAS ALMOST GOING DOWN, BUT I COULD NOT LET GREGORY STOP ME. WHAT COULD I DO?"

"THEN I REMEMBERED... THE GUN."



"I SHOT GREGORY OVER AND OVER."



"THERE WAS NOISE ALL AROUND ME."

"HE FELL DEAD ON THE PAVEMENT."

ACT FAST, ACT FAST! THE TEMPLE WILL ANNIHILATE THE PEOPLES OF WHOLE COUNTRIES!

THIS MAN I KILLED WAS A MADMAN!

"I TASTED MORTAL SLEEP IN MY MOUTH."

"A PHONE WAS THRUST AT ME AND I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING."

THESE PEOPLE MEAN TO KILL.

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THEM, STOP THE VIRUS...

"I WOKE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM."

TELL THEM I AM YOUR GRANDSON, GREGORY. THE BODY IS THAT OF THE IMPOSTOR.

GREGORY ARRANGED IT SAY ONLY THAT I AM YOUR GOOD GRANDSON.

I THINK I'M DYING.

NATHAN... NATHAN WALKS WITH GOD...

"BLACKNESS. THEN, 'THE PURPOSE IS TO LOVE AND TO UNDERSTAND... TO..."

THEY'VE BEEN STOPPED.

THE DNA IN THE FILE CONFIRMS YOU ARE GREGORY. IN A WAY, THAT IS THE PERFECT TRUTH.

"THE MASTERMINDS HAVE SURRENDERED. YOU ACCOMPLISHED IT."

I WANT TO DIE HERE. WILL YOU BURY ME?

"THEN SLEEP AGAIN. THIN, TROUBLED, MORTAL SLEEP."

"IT WAS VERY LATE WHEN I AWOKE. SHOCKED, I REALIZED I WAS IN MY OWN BODY."

WHERE IS THE STRAIGHTWAY, MY LORD? I HAVEN'T SUFFERED ENOUGH, HAVE I?

NATHAN DIED AT PEACE.

"THEN I WAS AZRIEL, THE SPIRIT, AGAIN."



*I HAD
WORK
TO DO.

*I FELT NO TASTE
FOR IT, BUT I HAD TO
DO IT. TOO MANY
MADMEN, TOO MUCH
POISON IN TOO
MANY DARK PLACES.

*I SLEW EVERY
LAST FOLLOWER
OF GREGORY
WHO RESISTED.

*DEATH LAY
IN MY WAKE.



*I WAS EXHAUSTED BUT
I TOOK MYSELF TO THE
BONES IN THE TEMPLE.

*IT WAS JUST A SKELETON...
JUST OLD BONES. I CRUSHED
THEM TO POWDER IN MY HANDS.

*THEN I BECAME
GREGORY. I FOUND
IT AMAZINGLY HARD
TO DO.

*I TOLD THEM I WAS
A MESSENGER. THEIR
LEADER HAD BEEN
DERANGED. BUT...

*...THE AGE OLD
MESSAGE OF
LOVE STILL HAD
ITS FULL TRUTH.



*WHEN IT
WAS DONE,
FOR A WEEK
I WANDERED
THE BARTH.



"BUT I LEARNED
THAT I DID NOT
LOVE TO KILL
ANYMORE.

"THE WORLD
WENT ON.

"THEN I CAME
HERE TO FIND
YOU. I KNEW
YOUR BOOKS.
I FOUND YOU.

"I DON'T KNOW
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN NOW.
BUT YOU HAVE
THE TALE."

IT WAS COLD AND
CLEAR ON THE
MORNING WE LEFT.

HE DROVE
FAST, LIKE A
MADMAN, I
SUPPOSE.



WHEN WE REACHED
MY HOUSE MY WIFE
AND CHILD RAN OUT
TO GREET US.



DON'T GO,
AZRIEL.

I HAVE TO,
I HAVE TO
WANDER.

WHEN YOU
WRITE YOUR
STORY, DON'T BE
AFRAID TO CALL ME
THE SERVANT OF
THE BONES, FOR
THAT IS WHAT
I AM.



GOODBYE,
JONATHAN,
MY GENTLE
FRIEND. I
LOVE YOU.



THREE TIMES I'VE
SEEN HIM SINCE.
TWO WERE ON
TELEVISION.

THE FIRST WAS DURING A
CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN
SOUTH AMERICA. HE WAS
HELPING TO FEED THE
SICK CHILDREN.

THE SECOND WAS IN THE
NEWS FOOTAGE OF
JERUSALEM, WHEN PRIME
MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN
WAS ASSASSINATED.

THAT WAS THE LAST
TIME I ACTUALLY
SPOKE TO HIM.

THE LAST TIME
WAS MERELY A
GLIMPSE. I WAS IN
A CAB SPEEDING
THROUGH NEW
YORK CITY.

HE TURNED
SUDDENLY AS IF HE
SAW ME, BUT WE
MOVED ON. I DID
NOT GO BACK TO
LOOK FOR HIM.

THAT IS THE TALE OF
THE SERVANT OF THE
BONES. THE STORY OF
ONE SOUL AND ITS
AGONIES, ITS REFUSAL
TO GIVE UP, AND IT'S
ULTIMATE VICTORY.

I AM CONFIDENT
THAT WHEREVER
AZRIEL IS, HE IS
HAPPY AND GOOD.

AND MY LIFE
HAS NEVER
BEEN AS IT WAS.

ALTASHHETH. DO
NOT DESTROY.

THE END.

LAMENT

Cry not, my baby,
Cry.
I know a frog ate a white moth.
That's why he's a frog.
Now moth is not.
My baby, cry not. Cry. There is much to do.
I will cry too.
I will cry for you.

Stan Rice, *Some Lamb* 1975

Happy New Year!

2012? Are you kidding me? Man, if I wasn't commuting to work every day in my flying car, I never would have believed it. But yes, the future is here, in the brand new year 2012.



than Meets the Eye! Two ongoing series that together form the new direction of the *TRANSFORMERS* Universe, both launching in January!

What would you say if someone asked you "What's the sexiest spy comic in history?" There really is only one answer, right? "*Dirk Wood: Spy Guy*." Okay, probably not. It has to be **J. Scott Campbell** and **Andy Hartnell's** *Danger Girl*, doesn't it? Well, *Danger Girl* is back!



—Dirk

There you go, a new year, with new beginnings. I believe I will begin this year by going to get some Chinese food, and sitting down to read some comics!

What does a new year mean to me? New beginnings of course! Well, let's start with our biggest re-launch of the year! *TRANSFORMERS!* Two titles, one universe! 2011 ended with *Chaos*, and now here comes the ultimate jumping-on point! *TRANSFORMERS: Robots in Disguise* and *TRANSFORMERS: More*



COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

30 Days of Night #4
Anne Rice's Servant of the Bones #6
The Cape #4
Cobra #9
Cobra Annual 2012:
The Origin of Cobra Commander
Cold War #4
Danger Girl: Revolver #1
Danger Girl: The Danger-Sized Treasury Edition
Dead Rising: Road to Fortune #4
Doctor Who #13
Dungeons & Dragons #15
Dungeons & Dragons 100-Page Spectacular
Ghostbusters #5
G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #174
G.I. Joe #9
Godzilla: Kingdom of Monsters #11
Godzilla Legends #3
Hawken #3
H.P. Lovecraft: The Dunwich Horror #4
Infestation 2 #1
Jurassic Park: Dangerous Games #5
Locke & Key: Clockworks #5
Magic: The Gathering #2
Memorial #2
Snake Eyes #9
Star Trek/Legion of Super-Heroes #4
Star Trek #5
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #6
Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye #1
Transformers: Robots in Disguise #1
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Transformers: Last Stand of the Wreckers HC
Womanthology: Heroic HC

EMPLOYEE
PICK OF
THE
MONTH!



CHRIS RYALL, CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER,
TOURING GUITARIST FOR KROKUS &
SPOKEN COVER BAND, "KROKUS"

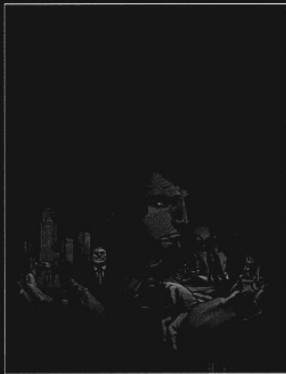
"Infestation 2 #1"



If you thought last year's *Infestation* event was fun, wait until you get a load of this year's. Tentacled, Lovecraftian "Old Ones" are breaking into the IDW Universe, affecting both time and space! Not only do we see how the *TRANSFORMERS* and *G.I. JOE* handle the threat, but the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Danger Girl*, *30 Days of Night* and a brand-new *Dungeons & Dragons* campaign are caught up in the action! If you're a comics fan that loves action, this is the event of the year! (Or, do you like the idea of *Bat Boy* from the *Weekly World News* and *Groom Lake*'s grey alien Archibald sitting in a bar having a couple of pints and talking about tentacled monsters? This is STILL the event for you!)

WATCH THIS SPACE
NEXT MONTH FOR A NEW
FEATURE YOU WON'T
BELIEVE!

ANNE RICE'S SERVANT OF THE BONES



The saga of *The Servant of the Bones* comes to an world-shattering conclusion in this final issue in the 6-part series.

Cover by Renae DeLiz

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